

PERSONAL.

Frank Heald is teaching school in Jacksonville.

Walter S. Pratt of Athol, Mass., was in town yesterday.

Capt. J. C. Timson of Claremont spent Sunday in Brattleboro.

A. E. Miller was in New York for a few days this week on business.

W. H. Brackett and C. A. Harris are in New York this week on business.

Henry Daley of Rutland has begun work in The Phoenix Job Printing office.

Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Rockwell returned from a visit in Massachusetts.

D. S. Pratt and N. F. Cabot went to Chicago the first of the week on business.

Alfred A. E. O'Connell of Chicago, visited M. J. Moran the first of the week.

Rev. E. A. Slack and family returned Tuesday to their winter home in Brookline, Mass.

President G. C. Averill of the Vermont National bank was in Boston on business the first of this week.

Mrs. Mary Landers returned Tuesday after a visit of two weeks with her son in Springfield, Mass.

Mrs. W. H. Henley and son Percy returned to the Brooks House Monday after spending some time in Boston.

Mrs. Cora Fox returned to her home in New York City Monday morning, after spending several weeks in town.

James Bowler, Jr., returned to Boston Monday after having been in town to attend the funeral of Mrs. P. M. Baker.

Mrs. A. R. Gregg and Miss Jessie Gregg returned to Brattleboro Wednesday after spending seven weeks at Hyde Park, Mass.

Mrs. H. C. Taylor returned to Brattleboro this week after spending several weeks in Wernersville and Philadelphia, Pa.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Ullery are spending the week with U. K. Pettengill, the head of the Pettengill advertising agency, in Boston.

Miss Nellie Goodrich, who recently returned to her school in Newton Centre, Mass., is ill with diphtheria in a Boston hospital.

Paul H. Mann of Hinsdale, N. H., began work Monday for the Brooks House pharmacy, which is in charge of Shirley K. Brigham.

Dr. Frank O'Connor, who looked over the Brattleboro field with a view to practicing medicine here, has opened an office at Rutland.

Miss Emma Brown has moved from South Main to 100 Elliot street. J. L. Scott has moved from Leonard block to 80 Elliot street.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew R. Gregg and daughter Jessie returned Wednesday from Boston where they have been since about the middle of October.

Mr. and Mrs. George Root went Saturday to West Newton, Mass., where they will live and where Mr. Root has a position on an electric railroad.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Farmer leave today for Orange, Mass., where Mr. Farmer has leased a store for the purpose of going into the grocery business.

Miss Mary Moriarty and Mrs. Catherine McCarthy returned Monday to Boston, having come here Friday to attend the funeral of Mrs. P. M. Baker.

Andrew Hopkins of West Dummerston has begun work as bell boy in the Brooks House in place of David Plimpton who finished work there Tuesday.

Col. and Mrs. Richards Bradley leave for Boston this week preparatory to their trip to Chicago and other western points where they will spend the winter.

Mrs. E. C. Crosby and family went to the Brooks House Monday, where they will spend the winter. Their house on High street will be closed until next spring.

Mrs. C. B. Starr closed her Western avenue home yesterday and left for Brooklyn, N. Y., where she will spend the winter with her daughter, Mrs. D. H. Clements.

O. W. Butterfield is back in C. M. C. Richardson's market after an attack of mumps. M. A. Whitney of the same market is one of the late victims of the same disease.

Mrs. Fred L. Childs and daughters Helen and Miriam and Ora W. Butterfield of Prospect Hill are ill with the mumps. Miss Ruth Childs has just recovered from an attack of mumps.

Bishop Michael was in town Monday on his way to his home in Burlington from a visit in several Massachusetts towns. Rev. Father Cunningham accompanied him to Burlington.

Mrs. S. E. Williams, who has been at the Brooks House during the summer, went Tuesday to Boston whence she will go to San Francisco, Cal. From there she will take passage for the Hawaiian Islands.

P. M. Baker returned to Boston Tuesday after coming to Brattleboro last week with the body of his wife. Mr. Baker's sister, Mrs. Patrick Kelley, returned with him and will remain in Boston to care for his family.

Mr. and Mrs. George Clay of Somerville, Mass., will return to Brattleboro to live about Christmas time. Mr. Clay, who has been with the Merrill Piano company, will enter the insurance business for H. E. Taylor & Son.

The Pinehurst Outlook of Pinehurst, N. C., says: "Miss G. Burnham of Brattleboro, Vt., is at Holly Inn for the season." Holly Inn, Pinehurst's largest and finest hotel, opened Dec. 1 with many additions and improvements.

Frank Shearer, a former organ tuner and local musician, who went to Detroit, Mich., about 10 years ago, has been calling on old acquaintances this week. Mr. Shearer now has a large and profitable piano tuning business in Detroit.

Miss Edith Emerson returned Monday to her work in the Boston city hospital after a vacation of two weeks with her parents in town. Her sister, Miss Helen Emerson, accompanied her to Boston, where she will remain for several days.

Mrs. J. A. Lillis of Rutland, Mrs. J. T. Dunning of Palmer, Miss Brie Bowler of Willimantic, Conn., and James Bowler of Brattleboro, were in town Friday and Saturday, being called here to attend the funeral of Mrs. P. M. Baker.

The following is from the Burlington Free Press of Friday: "Dr. D. P. Webster, postmaster at Brattleboro, and also grand captain general of the Grand Commandery, P. and A. M., was in this city yesterday, the guest of Grand Master D. N. Nicholson."

Albert J. Pullen is one of the members of the graduating class of the medical department of the University of the South at Swann, Tenn., which will hold its exercises the 15th inst. Mr. Pullen has been chosen vice president of the class, which contains over 60 members.

Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Allen of St. Johnsbury, who reached Boston Friday on a Dominion Line steamer, came to Brattleboro that evening, and spent Saturday and Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Hubbard. Dr. and Mrs. Allen have spent the past three months in London and Paris, where the doctor has been taking special courses in surgery.

THE BRATTLEBORO SAVINGS BANK.

Why It Decides to Reduce Its Dividends.

A Statement from the Trustees, Adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Board Held on Wednesday.

The Brattleboro Savings bank, having decided to reduce its annual dividends from four per cent to three and one-half per cent, deems it due to the public, and especially to its depositors, that a plain statement of the reasons that have led to this action, should be made. And in connection with this reduction of dividends, this bank has also decided to reduce its rate of interest on local loans, with a first class real estate security from six to five per cent. The reasons are these:—

The legislature of this state at its recent session rejected off-hand, and apparently without serious consideration, the respectful petition of the savings institutions of the state in behalf of their depositors, for relief of their deposits (mainly the hard-earned savings of men and women) from the excessive and oppressive taxation imposed upon them. And therefore, the old tax rate of seven and one-half per cent on every dollar of deposits, and also on every dollar of surplus that has been put aside to insure safety, is still to be exacted, and probably will continue to be exacted until the law-making power of the state has been induced to change the tax rate. As it has already been learned in New Hampshire, a grievous cost, that even from the purely practical standpoint of highest possible revenue collection, exorbitant taxation is not always wise. In this connection, a brief comparison of the tax rate on deposits and surplus in Vermont and in neighboring states, where it is thought to be wise to encourage and foster the saving habit among the poor, will be interesting and instructive.

NEW HAMPSHIRE—A large majority of her savings banks having already been taxed into bankruptcy, and a considerable number of them existing by a tax rate of one per cent on the deposits, and two per cent on the surplus, the legislature two or three years ago changed the tax rate on deposits to one per cent, and on the surplus to two per cent, which, coupled with exemption of all money loaned on mortgage in the state, which would reduce the actual tax, if levied on all deposits and surplus in Vermont, to about one-half of one per cent.

MASSACHUSETTS—The tax rate is one-half of one per cent on all money loaned on mortgage in the state, etc., which reduces the tax on deposits to one-quarter of one per cent, and on the surplus to one-half of one per cent. RHODE ISLAND—The tax is two-thirds of one per cent on all money loaned on mortgage in the state, etc., which reduces the tax on deposits to one-quarter of one per cent, and on the surplus to one-half of one per cent.

CONNECTICUT—The nominal tax is one-quarter of one per cent, but \$5000 of the deposits of each bank and all surplus are outside exempted, thus reducing the actual tax to one-fifth of one per cent, or three and one-half times less than the tax in Vermont.

NEW YORK—This state imposes no tax whatever on savings bank deposits.

In view of these extremely suggestive facts, it is difficult to conceive why Vermont should persist in following in the footsteps of New Hampshire, and thus invite for her own savings institutions the disasters that have befallen those of her sister state.

Owing to the rapid decline in the earning capacity of money during the last two years, which promises to continue, new deposits cannot be put into safe investments, including a proper proportion of ready money securities to insure safety and stability, that will earn four per cent dividends, after paying expenses of one per cent tax, and the expenses of running the banks, and making good whatever losses may have been sustained; and, therefore, such dividends cannot be paid without drawing on the surplus that has been earned by, and rightfully belongs to, the old deposits, and has been set apart from time to time, and should be sacredly held, as security against future contingencies and possible losses. Unless there should speedily be a material advance in the loaning value of money, of which there seems to be little prospect, it must be apparent to all that even the unworkable seizure of the surplus to take out four per cent dividends on money that has not earned them, could prolong such dividends only for a very brief period. In fact the curt refusal of the legislature to reduce the tax rate to one-half of one per cent—that being the highest rate in any near-by and competing state—has made it the imperative duty of most of the savings institutions, and possibly wise for all of them—each must judge for itself—to reduce dividends to three and one-half per cent, instead of dissipating their surplus, and thus endangering their stability, in futile efforts to maintain a rate of dividend not warranted by existing conditions, for which unquestionably the action, or rather the non-action, of the general assembly is mainly responsible.

Weighted down by burdensome taxes, Vermont banks labor under many and grave disadvantages, not known to like institutions in other states where a wiser policy prevails; but placed on the same level with outside banks, as to rates of taxation and scope of investments, sound Vermont banks could successfully compete with those banks in payment of dividends, and otherwise.

The Brattleboro Savings bank is now sound and strong, and abundantly able to meet all its obligations promptly, with an ample surplus over, to insure its future stability; and its managers mean to keep it strong. And nobody has so vital an interest in its strength as the depositors themselves, who own the bank and all its possessions. With rare exceptions, possibly, they are careful and thoughtful men and women, too prudent and intelligent to desire excessive dividends at the risk of absolute security. But if any of the bank's depositors disapprove the action the trustees have taken, and believe they can safely put their money into investments elsewhere that will pay them more than three and one-half per cent, free of taxes, and ready to be repaid to them on demand, and for this, or any other reason, desire to withdraw their deposits, as they have an unquestioned right to do, the bank will promptly return their money to them hereafter, as always heretofore, whenever they want it.

The above statement was unanimously approved at a regular meeting of the board of trustees, held Dec. 7, 1898.

B. D. HARRIS, President.

SPORTING.

Nat Butler showed that he was still in the game at New York Saturday night, when he won the one-mile national indoor championship from a large field of the crack riders.

An athletic record which had stood for a decade was broken at New York Saturday night, when Richard Sheelton, a former Rutland boy who attained prominence as a Yale athlete, put the 16 pound shot 32 feet 10 and won the 7th regiment's contest as scratch man.

Burns Pierce, the Boston cyclist who has broken world's records and led the profession of six-day plungers at New York this week, is well remembered in Brattleboro as one of the riders at the Vermont Wheel club's race meets. He was formerly a team mate of J. E. Walsh, the Wheel club champion.

Interest Rate Reduced at Montpelier.

The Montpelier Savings bank and Trust company announces that, beginning Jan. 1, 1899, the rate of interest it pays on deposits will be reduced from four to three per cent, and that the interest on its loans, secured by mortgage, in Vermont, will be five per cent instead of six.

DEATH OF MRS. G. E. SAWYER.

While Ill She Took a Dose of Wood Alcohol in Mistake for Medicine.

(From the New York Times of Tuesday.)

Mrs. Genevieve Trust Sawyer, wife of G. Edwin Sawyer, of the commission firm of Dresser & Co., died yesterday at her home, 320 West Eighty-second street. She had been ill for some time with a cold and heart trouble. Saturday night she got up from her bed in order to get some medicine, and by mistake drank a quantity of wood alcohol which was in a bottle in a closet in her room. Mrs. Sawyer was at once seized with severe pains, and Dr. A. Jacobus, the family physician, was sent for. He treated her, and did not think at the time that she would suffer any serious consequences from her error. Sunday evening she did not seem to be any worse, but at midnight she suddenly became very ill and died at 1 o'clock yesterday morning, before medical aid could be summoned.

Dr. Jacobus said yesterday that in his opinion she would not have been seriously affected by the alcohol had she not been ill from other causes and greatly weakened through suffering.

Mrs. Sawyer was born in Baltimore 27 years ago and her family is well known in that city, where she married Mr. Sawyer five years ago. She leaves, beside her husband, one child three years old. The funeral will be held at Baltimore on Thursday.

G. Edwin Sawyer is the only son of Col. and Mrs. N. C. Sawyer of Washington, formerly of Brattleboro. The young man is well remembered in Brattleboro as "Ned" Sawyer. He was a member of the High school class of '85. He went to Washington with his parents about 15 years ago. He has been engaged in business in New York several years. Mr. and Mrs. Sawyer spent a few weeks at the Brooks House soon after their marriage.

Fake Dummerston Murder Story.

A sensational story was brought to Brattleboro from Dummerston last Saturday which was in effect that an aged farmer of Dummerston had confessed to a Brattleboro lawyer that he murdered a boy from the industrial school of Monson, Mass., whom he had taken to live with him until the boy reached his majority, about 25 years ago. Some of the older residents of Brattleboro and Dummerston recall the circumstances of the disappearance of a boy in Dummerston about 25 years ago, but no suspicion of foul play was ever attached to the fact. The substance of the confession was reported to be that the farmer and the boy were in the field when the farmer, in a fit of anger, struck the boy with an iron bar, killing him instantly. The boy was then buried under a brush fence and the foul deed was kept a secret until the farmer, unmoved by the ever-present consciousness of his wrong doing, relieved his mind by a confession. The story savored of unreliability, for it did not appear probable that the farmer would tell anybody but the lawyer, and the lawyer certainly would not allow the story to leak out in such a vague manner as in which it came. It is perhaps unnecessary to state that none of the Brattleboro lawyers admits being an "accessory" after the fact, and as none of the authorities or other citizens gives any credence to the story, and as it is impossible to find any foundation for any of the numerous rumors that are afloat, the story must be characterized as a fake. The Springfield Republican published the story as a fact Thursday, with the sensational coloring that Brattleboro was "agitated" over the developments.

PERSONAL.

Alice Robinson has spent the week at her home in Baldwinville, Mass.

Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Staples went to New York Monday on a pleasure trip of a few days.

E. W. Harlow has returned to his work in the Brattleboro Overall factory after a week's illness.

Emerson Plagg, Jr., is at home, having finished work last week as cook in Town's hotel at Bellows Falls.

Dennis Corlies and Rollin Brown have been making a business trip with span through Windham county towns this week.

Wm. Abraham, painter for S. A. Smith & Co., was taken to the Retreat this week, having become insane as the result of overwork. He boarded with Mrs. Stone on Reed hill.

Mrs. Leonora Smith returned home Tuesday from her visit to Plainfield, N. J. Before her return she was summoned to Springfield, this state, to attend the funeral of a brother-in-law.

James Alexander, the newly-elected president of the Equitable Life Assurance society, is a brother-in-law of Isaac Williamson, having married the latter's sister, a daughter of the late Chancellor Williamson of the New Jersey supreme court.

Walter S. Pratt, Wayne Reed and Thomas Griffin were editors and Guy P. Howe and Mr. Clayton, the postmaster, were prominent singers in the musical entertainment which was brought out successfully at Athol, Mass., Thursday and Friday nights of last week.

ADVERTISED LETTERS.

Women—Mrs. Jack Callon, Mrs. Mary W. Genison, Mrs. Jessie Jeaner, Mrs. Julia McEgan, Mrs. Everett Fish, Geo. H. Hubbard, Geo. A. Lovett, Geo. H. Leslie, A. R. Randall, Edwin Rowell.

Men—J. F. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O. Sold by druggists, 75 cents. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

WEST BRATTLEBORO.

Mrs. F. H. Spaulding is again housed with neuralgia.

Brattleboro academy opened Monday with 59 pupils.

Charles Dunklee has returned to work for W. D. & J. L. Stockwell.

Fred Spaulding has made many trips on the ill-fated Portland and was well acquainted with the chief engineer, Mr. Merrill, and used to ride in the engine room with him while making the trip from Boston to Portland.

The West Farms correspondent of the Northampton Herald says: "Mrs. Angeline Clark has accepted the invitation of her brother-in-law, Luman F. Clark, to spend the winter with himself and family at their home in West Brattleboro, Vt."

The No. 5 car on the street railroad No. 8 is used instead. The cars were kept in running order remarkably well during the long time they have been on this side of the bridge. The weather forecasts are now displayed daily in the cars. The cars are running on one-half hour time all the time.

The annual reunion, roll call and election of officers of the Congregational church occurred last Friday afternoon and evening. In the afternoon the annual roll was called and a part of the time taken up socially. A chicken-pie supper was served at 5 o'clock and the election of officers took place in the evening.

Church and Society.

Christian Science service Sunday in Grange hall at 11. Subject, "Sacrament." All are welcome.

Christ Scientist service at 20 Prospect street, Sunday, at 10:45. Meeting Friday evening at 7:30. All interested are welcome.

The ladies of the Unitarian society will hold their second social of the season in Wells hall next Tuesday evening at 6:30. A "hash" supper will be served and the evening spent in games.

There will be a sociable given by the ladies of St. Michael's Episcopal church at the rectory, next Thursday evening, at half-past seven. Useful articles and home made candy will be on sale by the Altar society.

Unitarian church, Rev. E. Q. S. Osgood, pastor. Services every Sunday at 10:30 A. M. Sunday school at 11:45 A. M. Next Sunday Mr. Osgood will take as his theme "The Oriental Christ." All are welcome.

Morning worship at the Universalist church next Sunday at the usual hour with preaching by the pastor; 11:45, Sunday school; 6 P. M., Young People's Christian Union; 7 P. M., vesper service, with an address on Charles Sheldon's book, "In His Steps." All are cordially invited.

At the Adventist church next Sunday at 10:45, prayer meeting; 2:30, pastor's subject, "The Burial of Jesus"; 5:30, Mrs. Collier will hold her children's meeting; 6:30, Loyal Workers' meeting led by one of its members; 7:30, subject, "The Old, the Owner and the Victim." This was omitted Nov. 27. Illustrated on the blackboard.

It is certainly a new thing under the sun for a British ambassador, in a public speech in the capital of the country to which he is accredited, to tell that country that it must alter its behavior toward his country or look out for squalls. Yet this is what Sir Edmund Monson did in Paris Tuesday night, and—a significant fact—the "London Times" applauds him for doing it. It is possible, of course, that Sir Edmund made his speech without consulting anybody, but it's very unlikely.—[Hartford Courant.]

Births.

In Brattleboro, Dec. 5, a son to Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Haus.

In Westminister, Dec. 1, a son to Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Snow.

In West Halifax, Dec. 3, a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher Dairymple.

In West Halifax, Nov. 14, a daughter, Mildred Elm, to Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Porter.

In West Halifax, Dec. 2, a son to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stanley.

Marriages.

In Westminister, Nov. 30, by Rev. F. B. Hyde, Oliver L. Edgar of East Hampton, N. Y., and Miss Hattie A. Lewis of Westminister.

In Halifax, Dec. 5, by Rev. Wilbur E. Streeter, Wilson F. Hubbard and Miss Gertrude M. Eames, both of Halifax.

In Westminister, Nov. 30, by Rev. F. B. Hyde, C. L. Edwards of East Hampton, N. Y., and Miss Hattie A. Lewis of Westminister.

In Windham, Dec. 5, by Rev. George P. Chapin of Saxtons River, assisted by Rev. George Rogers of Windham, Rev. Lee James Travis of Fredericksburg, Ohio, and Miss Ella Maria, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Snow of Windham.

Deaths.

In Brattleboro, Nov. 28, Edson W. Burnham, 34 years, 11 months, 20 days.

In Brattleboro, Dec. 5, Edward W. Udall, a son of the late Hon. James Udall of Hartford, Vt., 67 years, 10 months.

Burial in the family lot in the cemetery at Quebec.

In Brookline, Dec. 2, Augusta E. Marsh, 76, wife of Norman C. Marsh.

In Westminister, Nov. 30, Mrs. Lucinda Crawford, 57.

In Northampton, Mass., Dec. 3, Charles H. Shrigley, 58.

In Brookline, N. Y., Dec. 3, Mrs. Lucretia A. Snow, formerly of Windham.

In Wilmington, Nov. 30, Mrs. W. S. Watkins.

In Menlo Park, Calif., Nov. 25, Frank B. Reed, 45, grandson of Isaac Reed, an old-time resident of Dummerston.

In Needham, Mass., Nov. 31, Asa Flint, 94 years, 5 months, formerly of Brookline.

In Dummerston, Dec. 7, Oscar Dix, 75.

In Newfane, Dec. 9, Amy Miller, 15.

A Guaranteed Attraction.

AUDITORIUM, BRATTLEBORO,

Wednesday, December 14,

The eminent romantic actor,

ROBERT B. MANTELL

And a select company under the management of M. W. Hanley presenting for the first time here a new romance by W. A. Tremayne, entitled

"A Secret Warrant."

Gorgeous Scenery, Numerous Accessories, Superb Costumes, Powerful Company.

Tickets go on sale at News Store, Saturday evening at 7 o'clock.

D

Hood's Calendar 1899

Is a perfect beauty, patriotic, up to date. Subject:

"An American Girl"

One of the handsomest pieces of color work is issued this year. Engraved with a border of army and navy emblems embossed in gold. Leave your name with your druggist and ask him to save you a copy or send six cents in stamps for one to C. I. HOOD & CO., Lowell, Mass.

(Mention this paper)

Remember

Hood's Sarsaparilla is America's Greatest Medicine for the Blood and the Best that Money Can Buy. Hence take only Hood's.

49 50

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